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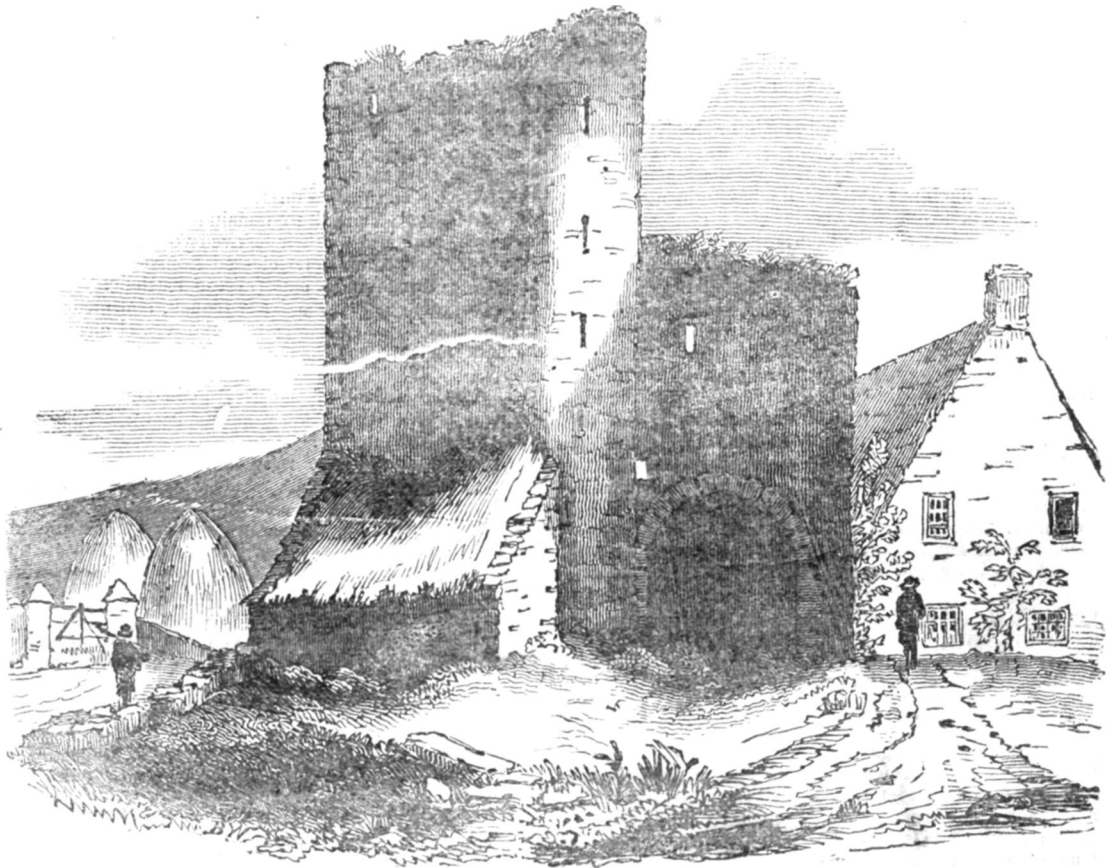
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P. D. HARDY, 3, CECILIA-STREET.

OCTOBER 19, 1833.



KILLEEL CASTLE, COUNTY OF KILDARE.

We have been favored with the above sketch, by B. Wright, Esq. of the ruins of one of those monuments of antiquity which, in the olden time, were looked upon as the glory of this our Emerald Isle, but are now fast falling into decay; and which, but for individuals possessing something of the feelings and national spirit of our kind contributor, would, in a few years, be altogether forgotten that they ever existed. And this is one way in which we think the Dublin Penny Journal well calculated to subserve the interests of Ireland, by giving "a local habitation and a name" to some of those ancient buildings which lie scattered over the country, and which the hand of time is fast levelling with the dust.

Killeel Castle, the subject of our sketch, lies about four miles from the village of Rathcool, and fourteen from Dublin, branching off to the left of the Naas road.

It is questionable, Mr. Wright observes, whether the tower (which now forms part of the castle, and serves as a staircase to the interior) is not one of the many specimens of those religious edifices, which are to be found in various parts of Ireland, usually denominated round towers; from the circumstance of there being the remains of an old abbey and church near to the site, as also an ancient stone cross, (in a tolerable state of preservation,) standing in the garden immediately adjoining. The ascent to what were the several floors of the castle, is by stone steps, in the round tower, sixty in number, varying from seven to nine inches in depth.

The remains of the abbey are, at present, unimposing;

and, with the exception of the gable and ruined doorway, nothing but low and ragged bits of the early walls are left—these, however, are sufficient to show that the original building was one of considerable extent.

In taking advantage of the old foundation stones, &c. for the purpose of building in the neighbourhood, several of the abbey vaults have, from time to time, been opened; and, on those occasions, many specimens of antiquity were found, such as coins, axes, keys, spoons, &c. There are still several vaults unexplored.

We give the drawing, &c. in the hope that some individual, acquainted with the history and antiquities of this part of the country, may be induced, through our pages, to furnish such further information, relative to these ruins, as shall enable those interested in the ancient remains of our country, to form a correct judgment as to the building and its original uses. We understand that a gentleman, who resides in the neighbourhood, was present at the finding of a suit of ancient armour, which was dug up, a few years ago, on some part of the land in the immediate vicinity of the ruin. It has also been mentioned to us, that the same gentleman remembers when there was a way going into a cave or cavern in the neighbourhood, but he cannot, at present, recollect the exact spot in which it was situated. Mr. Wright informs us, that the fact of a subterraneous cavern being in the neighbourhood is, in a degree, corroborated by the statement of a poor man, who, being at the place, states that it is very generally believed that a rising pasture ground, in the immediate vicinity of the castle, is hollow beneath.